



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
OF THE COURTS  
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## FACT SHEET

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### Administrative Office of the Courts

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is the staff agency to the Judicial Council of California, the policymaking body of the state court system. Under the leadership of Administrative Director of the Courts William C. Vickrey and Chief Deputy Director Ronald G. Overholt, the AOC is responsible for a variety of programs and services to improve access to a fair and impartial judicial system. Recent structural changes in the state judicial branch have dramatically increased the AOC's roles and responsibilities. Today the agency is organized into nine divisions in San Francisco, one division in Sacramento, and three regional offices, with a staff of more than 600 serving the courts for the benefit of all Californians. Brief descriptions of the AOC's divisions and offices follow.

#### Appellate and Trial Court Judicial Services Division

The Appellate and Trial Court Judicial Services staff works to secure and maintain adequate resources for the trial and appellate courts by providing judicial assignment, appointed counsel, case coordination, and case management services.

*Marcia M. Taylor, Director*

#### Center for Families, Children & the Courts

CFCC works to improve the quality of justice for—as well as services to meet the diverse needs of—families, youth, children, and self-represented litigants in the California courts.

*Diane Nunn, Director*

#### Education Division/Center for Judicial Education and Research

The Education Division/CJER serves as the council's education resource for the judicial branch, offering comprehensive educational curricula for judges, court staff members, and AOC staff members.

*Karen M. Thorson, Director*

#### Executive Office Programs Division

The Executive Office Programs Division performs a variety of logistical, analytical, and management services for the Judicial Council, the AOC, and the courts including planning, research, communications, and staff support for the council and key internal and advisory committees.

*Kenneth L. Kann, Acting Director*

#### Finance Division

The Finance Division provides an integrated program of budget planning, asset management, accounting, procurement, and contract management for the judicial branch and the trial courts.

*Christine M. Hansen, Director and Chief Financial Officer*

#### Human Resources Division

The Human Resources Division provides a range of human resources services for the judicial branch, as well as support to the trial courts, in the areas of recruitment, classification, and compensation; pay and benefits administration; labor and employee relations; integrated disability management; personnel policy development; and human resources information systems.

*Ernesto V. Fuentes, Director*

#### Information Services Division

The Information Services Division coordinates court technology statewide, and supports coordination throughout the judicial branch; manages centralized statewide technology projects; and optimizes the scope and accessibility of accurate statewide judicial information.

*Patricia M. Yerian, Director*

#### Office of Court Construction and Management

The Office of Court Construction and Management enhances the administration of justice by providing responsible and efficient professional stewardship of California's court facilities; promotes excellence in the built environment with the aim of facilitating equal access to justice; and provides leadership in the design and management of judicial system architecture.

*Kim Davis, Director*

#### Office of the General Counsel

The Office of the General Counsel provides high-quality, timely, and ethical legal advice and services to the Chief Justice, the Judicial Council and its committees and task forces, the AOC, and the courts. The office has two major functions: (1) house counsel and (2) “rules and projects”—development of rules of court and legal forms.

*Michael Bergeisen, General Counsel and Deputy Administrative Director*

#### Office of Governmental Affairs

The Office of Governmental Affairs in Sacramento promotes and maintains positive relations with the legislative and executive branches and advocates for the council on legislative and budget matters.

*Kathleen T. Howard, Director*

#### Regional Offices

Three regional offices facilitate services and improve communication between the AOC at the state level and the courts at the local level. The primary focus is on operations, especially in the areas of technology, finance, legal matters, and human resources.

- Southern Region, *Sheila Calabro, Regional Administrative Director*
- Northern/Central Region, *Jody Patel, Regional Administrative Director*
- Bay Area/Northern Coastal Region, *Christine Patton, Regional Administrative Director*

#### Contact:

Office of Communications, [pubinfo@jud.ca.gov](mailto:pubinfo@jud.ca.gov)

#### Additional resources:

General information, [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courtadmin/aoc/](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courtadmin/aoc/);  
[www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/4\\_2aoc.htm](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/4_2aoc.htm)